

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-01 EUR-08 EB-03 SAM-01 L-02 /049 W

----- 039286

R 011445Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2391

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2891

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, US, SF, ZA, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA; SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE OF NEGOTIATIONS

REFERENCE: LUSAKA 1383

1. I HAD OCCASION SEE DFA SECRETARY BRAND FOURIE THIS MORNING AND ASKED HIM HOW SITUATION LOOKED IN RHODESIA. HE SAID SAG IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT. HE TRAVELLED TO LUSAKA JULY 21 TO CONFER WITH GRZ AND ANC OFFICIALS. HE BELIEVES THAT ANC HAS ACHIEVED SUFFICIENT COHESION TO NEGOTIATE MEANINGFULLY WITH SMITH. STUMBLING BLOCK CONTINUES TO BE VENUE FOR TALKS. SAG NOW WORKING ON THIS ASPECT.

2. SO FAR SMITH HAS HELD FIRM TO POSITION THAT ALL NEGOTIATIONS, EXCEPT FOR RIBBON-TYING CEREMONY IN LONDON, SHOULD BE HELD IN RHODESIA. SAG HAS OFFERED PRETORIA TO BOTH SIDES. ACCORDING TO FOURIE, ANC IS WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS VENUE, BUT SO FAR SMITH HAS REFUSED. DURING COURSE OF OUR CONVERSATION, FOURIE RECEIVED WORD THAT SMITH WAS TO ANSWER PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION TODAY ON ISSUE OF HOLDING TALKS OUTSIDE RHODESIA.

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HIS REPLY WAS TO TAKE HARD NEGATIVE LINE. FOURIE SAID THIS

WAS UNFORTUNATE, BUT HE DID NOT REGARD IT AS NECESSARILY
LAST WORD, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD MAKE IT THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT
FOR SMITH TO REVERSE FIELDS. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION
ABOUT BORDER COMMUNITY WHICH MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH
SIDES, FOURIE REPLIED THAT SAG WAS WORKING ON THAT BUT DID
NOT FURNISH DETAILS.

3. I ASKED FOURIE ABOUT CONTINUED PRESENCE OF SA POLICE FORCES
IN RHODESIA. HE SAID THAT WITHDRAWALS NOW AMOUNT TO 95 PER CENT OF
ORIGINAL FORCE. WHAT IS LEFT IS "INSIGNIFICANT." HE STRESSED
THAT WITHDRAWAL IS VERY SENSITIVE MATTER IN SA AS WELL AS
RHODESIA. SAG WANTS NO PUBLICITY OF DRAW-DOWN BECAUSE OF
ADVERSE REACTION AT HOME AS WELL AS IN SALISBURY. MORE IMPORTANT
ISSUE IS TO GET SMITH-ANC TALKS GOING. SAG WANTS TO AVOID
ANYTHING THAT WOULD DETRACT FROM ABILITY OF SAG AND SMITH
REGIME TO ACHIEVE THIS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE SAG CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS TO PERSUADE SMITH
TO MEET WITH ANC IN PRETORIA OR ON SOME BORDER COMMUNITY, IT
WOULD NOT HELP MATTERS TO PRESS EITHER SA OR SMITH ON POLICE
FORCES ISSUE. SAG SEES CONTINUED PRESENCE OF ITS POLICE IN
RHODESIA AS A LIABILITY TO ITS DETENTE EFFORTS; BUT WHILE THERE IS
ANY CHANCE OF BRINGING ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS, SAG PREFERS
TO CARRY THAT LIABILITY RATHER THAN RISK AN ACTION WHICH
WOULD PREJUDICE ITS ABILITY TO SERVE AS GO-BETWEEN IN LARGER
SETTLEMENT WHICH IN SAG VIEW COULD BRING MUCH GREATER DETENTE
DIVIDENDS. I RECOMMEND AGAINST OUR STICKING IN AN OAR AT
THIS STAGE.

BOWDLER

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